

**REMARKS**

Claim 6 is pending in this application. By this Amendment, Figure 2 has been amended. The applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added. It is believed that this Response is fully responsive to the Office Action dated September 16, 2002.

**IN THE DRAWINGS:**

The drawings stand objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) due to the Examiner's assertion that the claimed feature of the "pads per se having a concave surface" is not shown in the any of the figures. As such, a Request for Approval of Drawing Corrections is attached with corrected Figure 2. More specifically, Figure 2 has been amended to show that pad 4 has a concave surface. Approval of the correction to Figure 2 is requested.

**As To The Merits:**

As to the merits of this case, the Examiner sets forth the following rejection:

claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by **Chigawa et al.** (U.S. Patent No. 6,172,422).

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection based on Chigawa is not proper since Chigawa fails to qualify as prior art under either 35 U.S.C. §102 or §103. More specifically, Chigawa has an effective filing date of July 11, 1997, which falls after the foreign priority date of May 19, 1997 for the present application.

Further, in order to perfect the filing date of the present application, and thereby overcome the rejection based on Chigawa, English language translations of the priority documents H9-128898 and H9-289836 along with signed statements of Verification of Translation are currently being finalized and will be forwarded to the Examiner upon completion.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claim 6 is in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

AMENDMENT

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/805,559

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN & HATTORI, LLP



Thomas E. Brown  
Attorney for Applicant  
Reg. No. 44,450

TEB/kal  
Atty. Docket No. **980404A**  
Suite 1000, 1725 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
(202) 659-2930



23850

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Q:\FLOATERS\TEB\teb\98\980404\A\3rd action amendment.frm